Wendell Post

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Town Meeting Debates Development

Several issues brought high emotion to the process of adopting new zoning bylaws in November and early December: among them back lots, guest cabins, and commercial and industrial businesses in Town. Other differences were sure to arise as a series of Town meetings continued to work item-by-item through the proposed thirty-page proposal from the Wendell Planning Board.

At this writing, after three special Town meetings Nov.22 and 29 labored on the proposal, voters have accepted the designation of the entire Town as a rural-residential and agricultural district. (By this bylaw, commercial and industrial businesses may be located or expanded only by special permit). Voters also gave the building inspector power of enforcement, and created a fine provision of not more than $100 per day of each separate violation. The same article gives the new bylaw precedence over others in cases where it is stricter, and says the package can be amended at Town meetings, annual or special.

The third article, dealing with several dozen definitions of terms, was finally completed at the third meeting. It had been defeated at the first meeting, then a move was made to reconsider. This proved successful once a vote was taken in the second meeting. Thereafter, both procedural and substantive issues took lots of time to debate, with parlimentary jockeying to force vote on the entire article at once. "Let's stop debating so much or we'll be coming back here for a year," several pleaded. There was some feeling that the definitions should be postponed until after the passages in which they were used were voted on. Some Town meeting goers couldn't understand voting on the definitions at all. Margaret Culley observed that "Voting against definitions is like voting against the dictionary." Still, the meeting found ways to correct ambiguity and remove superfluous legislating from the definitions. Meanwhile those present familiarized themselves with the provisions they would later be voting on.

It was apparent by debate surrounding definitions like "back lot" and "accessory use" that division exists on how far to go in restricting a property owner's right to "do as I like" in order for the Town to curb random development and save Wendell's ruralness. Before deciding on any amendment to the definition of back lot, the meeting instructed the planning board to come back with information on the state's standards for back lots, and whether those standards take precedence.

Looming ahead was the similar but larger question of how unwelcome a stance to take toward large business and industry. The proposed ordinance does not regulate cottage industry ("carried out by a resident and up to ten employees or co-workers in a structure separate from the principal building"), but battles were shaping up over restrictions or outright prohibitions on larger industries, as well as a proposed restriction limiting multi-family residences to three units (triplexes), those only by special permit. Joseph Diemand and Dean Bennett revealed a few details of a concept for an apartment building for the elderly consisting of 14 units and a jacuzzi that they say they are considering building in partnership. If funded with state money, they were told, the local bylaw would be superceded by state requirements, allowing Wendell's zoning restrictions to be disregarded for the purposes of such a project. In general, Wendell is allowed to pass more stringent requirements than the state...provided it doesn't cross over into what the attorney general considers "snob zoning."

Put into the mix before the zoning pack-

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Memories Of Gladys Fowling

"She was one of the kindest and most considerate people I have ever known. I felt honored to have her as a part of my family. She was always there for family and friends wherever she was needed. Every time she delivered Avon or just stopped to visit she always spoke of how fulfilled her life was and how much she loved and cherished Merle. She said you could never find a better husband and father and low lucky she was to have him. She was so proud of Cheryl and Dianne and how well they grew up and brought up their children. Her daughters and grandchildren were her pride and joy. She will be deeply missed by all of us. We all loved her very much." Brenda Grogan

. . . . . .

"Thirty five years ago, one summer day Gladys drove the tractor, mowing our fields and got four hundred bales of hay."
Josephine MacAvoy

. . . . . .

"Gladys drove the schoolbus when Ned first went to Kindergarden." Clare Green

. . . . . .

"Gladys loved children and when my girls were in pre-school, she would allow the children to visit the post office and explore how things worked. She would give them lollipops." Christine Heard

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Thanks to Deva Skydancer for the front page artwork.

Newly elected Selectman, Jonathan von Ranson

To the Wendell Post:

You don't know what a surprise is until you come into Town and learn you've been elected to the selectboard when you weren't even running !

Of course, serving on the selectboard has become one of the more unpopular jobs in Town, and in this situation one's feelings alternate between flattery and thinking "People consider me a dupe!"

I have accepted the job of filling out Jim Slavas' term. In the five months until May, I'm perhaps expected to handle the bulky package dropped in my lap. During this time I'll do the best I can within the limitations of my situation. Having no phone and living on the other side of the state forest on Bear Mountain, Susan and I are not the most accessible (or mobile, on our bikes) family in Town. But it should be noted we're usually home, or nearby logging this time of year, and open to unexpected visitors. Brief phone messages may also be left at 544-7425, including when you can be reached, please. I'll ordinarily call back within a couple of days. I plan to be regularly at Town Hall after 4 on Tuesdays.

Since I didn't ask for this job, I can perhaps take some risks. I'll be investigating whether the selectboard, the other boards, and Townspeople together are interested in moving toward a way of townness that's more suited to the future -- at least as most of us who aren't heavily invested in the present mode see it. First, I intend to refuse the salary of the position. Odd, eh?! Here's why: I believe Wendell's character is its rare awareness, and its reaching for community -- a lovely combination. Paying me to do a community job tends to take the sense of shared responsibility off your shoulders, am I right? Accepting pay feels like an unsatisfying token compared to the rewards of true community, of shared work --- which under progressive circumstances is actually <u>fun</u>, by gosh.

And community isn't run like a corporation it decides and acts something like a living organism. If you've watched a child who's just learned to walk, you realize how empowering and natural this phenomenon is. I'm not alone in thinking it applies to community, too. To a small degree, its already functioning in pockets in Wendell.

But Wendell government, like government everywhere, is becoming increasingly corporate as problems thicken. Services are automatically bought and paid for ... solutions to Town problems are routinely sought "in the market", using a terribly exploitive mainstream economy. (How would you work if your blood stream had to purchase the services of your liver? Mining your <u>bones</u> to come up with the cash?)

The world, with its services-bought-and-paid-for way of doing things, will not go away very soon. But I'm taking the opportunity of this letter to ask if a more self-regulating, consensual community doesn't want to begin to grow out of an obliging Wendell government, in partnership with a more lifelike local economy? To pull that way simply because it's right, it's inevitable, and it's much more satisfying

Those who'd like to help make the attempt will discover each other where the community work is being done; on the volunteer committee, at bees, in board and commission meetings, in citizen groups, in gardens and cottage industries. In Town meetings they'll be pushing for the solution that uses local resources to solve local problems ...and not always taxation. And sometimes they'll spend time just hanging out and gossipping...gossip (not the mean kind) always struck me as community glue.

Jonathan von Ranson

To the Wendell Post:

I would like to take this opportunity to enlighten the town on a project that I am presently involved in. About a year and half ago I approached Dean Bennett on how to get my yard more level than it presently is and to stop the erosion that constantly occurs during heavy rain. Dean and I after having looked at a variety of methods settled on using demolition debris as a method to fill this piece of property. This project started the summer of 87 and in March of '88 I contacted a member of the Conservation Commision stating my intent. He referred me to the Board of Health. After having put my proposal before before the Board, I was granted a site assignment this past October. At this point in time, I presently have a team of Dean Bennett, Construction, Peter James, Legal...Robert Drwila, Engineer and myself property owner.

Our engineer is utilizing a sanitary land fill style operation for the disposal of building rubble. Peter James brings to this operation the expertise of also being on the Deerfield Conservation and Dean Bennett will be doing the actual construction. This project shall be a model for the state as to how to dispose of building rubble without burying it in a sanitary land fill. Yards that are currently in operation may use this style of construction to upgrade their existing facility.

When I originally made the proposal to the town I was unaware that there would be a fee for the town from any materials being brought on site. After consulting with Dean we realized as this project progresses the town should take in excess of $100,000.oo on a yearly process while this operation is being constructed.

I am extremely concerned that a few individuals after two hearings and two appeal periods have decided to express their concerns. My question, "Why have these individuals waited seven months to decide that they might be interested in a project that has had not one but two sixty day appeal periods????????

Both the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission have copies of the proposed construction. Having talked with Ted Lewis and David Walsh, it is my understanding that they support this operation. I would like to again make any taxpayers in town aware the benefits of this operation that we should not be faced with an override for the next three years. If anyone has any concerns please feel free to contact either myself at 544-7456 or Dean Bennett 544-3067.

If at a later date, another project were to occur, then possibly the by-laws presently being voted on may have an adverse effect.

Joe Diemand

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Gladys Powling

Gladys M. (Harrington) Powling, 65, of Center Road, died Thursday (12-8-88) at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was born in Greenfield, Oct. 26, 1923 the daughter of Avery H. & Rose F. (Herzig) Harrington. She graduated in 1941 from Orange High School and was an active member of its Alumni Association. She lived in Wendell 39 years.

Mrs. Powling was postmaster in Wendell for 27 years, retiring in 1985.

She was past secretary of the Franklin County Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States and was founder of the Massachusetts Scholarship Fund of NAPUS.

She was a member of the Ladies Aid and also served on the school committee for several terms. She was chairman of the Swift River School Building Committee at the time of her death.

She was a member of the Millers Falls Congregational Church.

Survivors include her husband of 44 years Merle O. Powling; two daughters, Cheryl Richardson of Wendell and Diane Fox of Travis AFB, California; three brothers, Calvin Harrington of Millers Falls, Avery Harrington Jr. of Sarasota, Florida and Robert Harrington of Meriden, Kansas; a sister Dorothy Hall of Westford; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the Millers Falls Congregational Church with the Rev. Robert Davis officiating. Burial was in Center Cemetery Wendell.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, 1 Salem Sq, Worcester 01608 or the Leukemia Association, 31 Elm St Springfield 01103.

Gladys and Merle Powling at Gladys' retirement party, shown with Wendell friends.

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Daycare

Memories...cont' from front page

"She was a wonderful friend and will always be remembered. When Warren died a few years ago and the house was crowded with family and friends Gladys called and said she was bringing dinner. She brought a complete turkey dinner..enough to feed everyone.....I've known Gladys since she came to town when she was about seven years old."
Dett Oliver

. . . . . .

"She was a dedicated person. She was a very good chairperson and kept the meetings going in a right manner. When she became involved in the school building project, she paid close attention and frequently checked the progress being made. I enjoyed visiting her to pick my Avon order. She will be greatly missed. Linda Facey"

. . . . . .

"My nephew, Jimmy, used to fall asleep almost every day on the school bus, sitting next to her and snuggling up to her."
Anne Diemand

. . . . . .

"She recognized that the strength of the town lay in the younger generation. That it was important to foster that because they are the ones that will buy homes and live here in the future..... In June of '73 when Outerspace came to town, she was happy to accept the twelve folks living in the house as a family. No complaints about them all using the same Post Office box.....When she found out that they were using a sheet of plywood for a dining room table, she gave them hers, one with a lot of leaves to fit them all...." Klondike

. . . . . .

"We will always remember Gladys and Merle and how they loved dancing together."
Marjorie Lewis

. . . . . .

"She was a strong force in building the best building we could for the school children...she didn't care what people thought when she really believed in something.... her broken hip and her quick recovery because of her determination...how she would come to check in the progress of the building even using her walker." Len Strauss

. . . . . .

"When I first moved in to town, Gladys was the first person to welcome me and become my friend and she's been my friend ever since. I would never hesitate to call her if I ever needed anything. She was always there for me. I will miss her greatly."
Jessie Wetherby

. . . . . .

"Whenever a project....either the Ladies Aid or a Wendell Post assignment... I worked with Gladys on the Ladies Aid and she used to write for the Wendell Post now and then. She came through whenever we needed her. It was real nice to know that we could call on her." Anne Diemand

. . . . . .

"We worked together on the Council for the Aging and the Ladies Aid suppers and Halloween and Christmas parties. She was always willing and dependable. We will all miss her." Elsie Diemand

. . . . . .

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John "Klondike" Koehler

Gladys Powling dancing with her husband, Merle, at his 75th birthday party last year.

"Gladys seemed to know just about everything....like the time the Fire Department got a call. The call came in "a barn fire near Maple Valley". I left the farm, went to the station, got the truck, didn't see any fire on the way so I headed toward Wendell Depot, got to Plain Road, turned around and came back up, pulled in to the Post Office and asked Gladys if she knew where the barn fire was. She just shook her head, looked at me and said, "It's the car fire in Wendell Depot". She was right once more."
Anne Diemand

. . . . . .

"No matter where Gladys was or what event she was involved in she always spoke out for the children and matched the words with her actions. Whether she was serving on the school building committee, speaking at town meeting or serving ice cream to the Vacation Bible school, Gladys always stayed firm in her position that children are an important part of our community." Sylvia Wetherby

. . . . . .

"Audrey and I will always remember "Grandma Gladys" for the times when we sat in her kitchen sipping tea and sharing cookies. She taught me not to be so critical of Audrey reminding me that she was just a kid. She made her home a relaxing place to visit. Gladys was also there to babysit in a pinch, particularly when Stephen had a Finance Committee meeting to attend and I was at work. She helped to make all our lives a little easier and brighter. We won't find another "Grandma Gladys"." Eileen Sauvageau

. . . . . .

"Gladys was the first person to welcome me when I came to Wendell. I was one of the first newcomers. She told me all about the history of Wendell and even the house I was to live in. She came and visited in the middle of all my unpacked boxes. She was always helpful and will be greatly missed."
Emma Cappaluzo

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Citizens Take Up Pen On Development Issue

At least four citizens have distributed letters or reports offering their contributions to the present zoning debate: Mason Phelps, Dean Bennett, Diane Kurinsky, and Julian Wadleigh.

o Before the series of Town meetings started Nov. 22, Dean Bennett wrote a postal-patron letter to every household in Town urging people to come to Town meeting to defeat the "commercial part" of the zoning proposal. He predicted a 20% annual increase in taxes in his letter unless the Town "encourages expansion of the commercial tax base."

After the meeting, with much still undecided by the voters, Dean again wrote and urged attendance, warning, "It is a fact that if we do not increase our tax base, our property taxes will rise to a point we will not be able to afford." He owns a trucking and excavating business and is partner with Joseph Diemand on a proposed Wendell landfill to accept construction debris from the greater Springfield area.

o Mason Phelps studied the taxes contributed by residential housing growth--from one new house to a theoretically fully-developed Town of 3394 new houses--and issued a 28-page report concluding that in order to control the tax rate, the Town's population of people and houses must also be controlled. He said all land possible should be protected in both tax exempt and state forest holdings...the more the better for the tax rate. He added that zoning bylaws requiring large lots and limiting the number of dwellings per lot should be adopted.

Finally, he concluded, permitting a limited amount of industrial development, to compensate for tax increases caused by the inevitable (but hopefully small) growth of residential development, is desirable.

He warned, though, that "Unless an industry is very capital intensive (i.e., costs a lot, but has very few employees), it will provide a residential magnet for its employees, whose new housing will offset the tax benefit of the industry. Complexes like Rowe Yankee and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project represent such capital intensive industries, but they are neither available to, nor desired by, every town."

The report examines many scenarios. One, for example, is the possibility that an additional 2,000 acres of Wendell will be developed AND that the non-taxation revenues for the Town will decrease by 50%. In that case, the report says, valuations will have to rise over sevenfold (646%) to keep the tax rate even. Were those 2,000 acres to be put into private tax-exempt status instead of being developed, the valuations would only have had to double or a little more (111% up) If put into state ownership (which pays in lieu of taxes), the increase would have been only 95%--less than double.

Mason and his wife, Ina, are the prime motivators of the 1,100-acre Whetstone Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Town, owned by the Connecticut River Watershed Council. He is a member of the conservation commission.

o Diane Kurinsky wrote a letter following the first Town meeting on the proposed bylaws. She encouraged regulating but not excluding commercial ventures as a way to "continue to pay for running our town, given the withdrawal of state and federal revenue sharing funds, and other difficulties." Though not mentioning Dean Bennett by name, she pointed to "an attempt being made to polarize" the issue into business vs. environment, or "lower taxes, higher property values vs. higher taxes, lower property values." "It seems hard to imagine," she wrote, "that allowing indiscriminate landfills or toxic waste dumps would raise our property values. On the other hand, it is equally foolish to imagine that our town will continue to exist without some commercial ventures or changes in how we operate."

Diane is a member of the school committee. She is the wife of Steve Gross, chair of the planning board.

o Julian Wadleigh expressed a similar sentiment. He endorsed the proposed bylaw regulating commercial business by saying, "The danger of pollution in Wendell will be greatly increased if, while other Towns make laws protecting themselves against pollution, we do not... It has even been stated at one of our meetings that our...bylaw will lower our real estate values. Now I spent a large part of my life working as an economist for the Government of the United States. I can see absolutely no reason to suppose that this law could lower the values of residential real estate. In all probability this law will protect our real estate values and... our health and the good quality of our lives!"

Fretting at the slow pace of adoption of the bylaws, Julian said, "We may not be able to get this law voted before the next century, but let's at least try to do it before the next Ice Age."

Because of the many concerns expressed about the tax effects of the bylaw, the finance committee entered the fray with a one-page handout after the first meeting making several points: 1) the finance committee recommends adoption of the bylaws, 2) the budget level (tax rate) is not expected to change dramatically in the foreseeable future, and 3) commercial growth will not afford tax relief unless it is carefully planned.

Jonathan von Ranson

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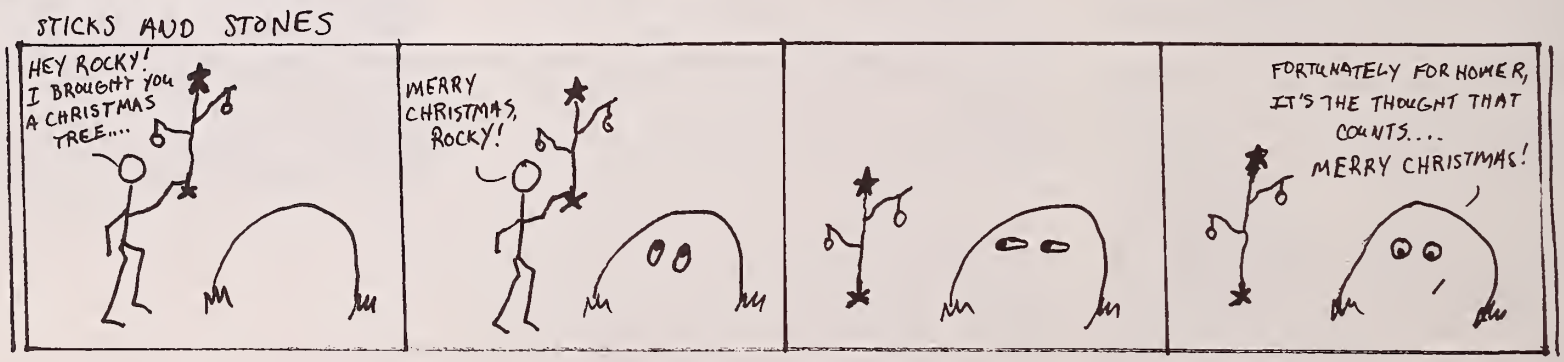

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Kevin Pinkerton and Scott McCormick watch as Costanza Eggers demonstrates the use of a video camera during the video workshop at Lake Grove Maple Valley. The workshop was funded by the Wendell Arts Lottery Council.

Video Workshop

On November 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1988 Lake Grove Maple Valley sponsored a video workshop Constanza Eggers from Cambridge, MA spent the weekend in Wendell demonstrating the use of a video camera, teaching interviewing skills, and explaining editing techniques. Workshop participants were Bettey Turner, Brad Powell, and Christine Heard, Maple Valley staff, and Scott McCormick, Aaron Frick, Shawn Aldrich, and Kevin Pinkerton, Maple Valley students. The workshop was funded by a Wendell Arts Lottery Council grant.

During the workshop an interview of the Diemand family was video-taped. Al and Elsie Diemand attended the initial workshop session on Friday evening and answered questions about politics and about how they first met, while participants practiced using the video camera.

On Saturday, after reviewing Friday's tapes, participants and equipment moved to the Diemand Egg Farm. There Al and Elsie answered questions about what brought them to Wendell and what their early years here were like. Jean Forward from the Wendell Historical Commission interviewed the Diemands as well, gathering information for her history of Wendell. Maple Valley staff and students spent the afternoon taping activities on the Egg Farm, from Tony Diemand shoeing horses to Peter Diemand spreading manure, from eggs being sorted to Diemand grandchildren playing soccer.

With Costanza Eggers' help, the workshop participants reviewed and began the process of editing the week-end's tapes on Sunday. Once the editing process is complete, a copy of the final tape will be given to the Wendell Free Library for its archives.

Lake Grove Maple Valley extends its thanks to the Wendell Arts Lottery Council for providing a unique opportunity. Maple Valley's new video equipment is now in regular use. Students have gained a greater understanding of Wendell and its citizens. And Wendell will have an unusual historical document for the Library.

LATEST ACID RAIN FIGURES
NOT GOOD BUT BETTER THAN USUAL!

Franklin County, District 6 - October 1988
Preliminary Data
Massachusetts Acid Rain Monitoring Project
UMASS Water Resources Research Center

Lake/Stream Name	Palsaris	Date Sampled	pH	DET Alk.	SET Alk.
Lake Wyola, Locks Pond	34103	10.16.88	6.30	2.40	3.90
OSGOOD BROOK	3522425	10.16.88	5.99	1.60	3.50
WHETSTONE BROOK	3522450	10.16.88	6.40	1.90	3.60
Moss Brook Lower	3522475	10.16.88	6.79	7.00	9.10
Moss Brook Upper	3522475	10.16.88	5.80	2.20	3.20
Orcutt Brook Lower	3522575	10.16.88	7.00	6.70	8.70
Orcutt Brook Upper	3522575	10.16.88	6.84	6.60	8.80
WEST BRANCH SWIFT RIVER	3626800	10.16.88	6.08	1.70	3.70
MORMON HOLLOW BROOK	3522225	10.16.88	6.70	4.40	5.90
Moosehorn Brook	3627050	10.16.88	6.85	7.80	9.70
MIDDLE BR SWIFT RIVER	3627125	10.16.88	6.38	7.30	9.40
TYLER BROOK	3420825	10.16.88	4.90	0.80	2.20
Baker Brook	3522250	10.16.88	5.65	0.20	2.00
LYONS BROOK	3522175	10.16.88	6.88	5.90	8.10

Water bodies monitored in the Massachusetts Acid Rain Monitoring Project are classified according to their vulnerability to acid precipitation based upon the results of the DET alkalinity analysis, which provide an indication of the buffering capacity of the water:

	DET Alk. (mg/L)
Acidified	0
Critical	>0 - 2
Endangered	>2 - 5
Highly Sensitive	>5 - 10
Sensitive	>10 - 20
Not Sensitive	>20

Missing Pets

In the last few months, Wendell has suffered a rash of disappearing pets. Cats and small-to-medium sized dogs have left their houses as usual, and then never returned.

Ted & Debbie Descavich lost two cats. Jonathan von Ranson - two cats. David Froebel - a cat and a medium sized dog. Doe Breauseau - a cat and three kittens. All in the last two months, all from the triangle formed by Mormon Hollow Road, Farley Road and Stone Road.

Debbie Descavitch's cats - a Siamese and an all-black - left home one night almost two months ago. The black cat - the oldest - never came back. Two days later, the Siamese - "Banzai" - disappeared, too.

"It doesn't make sense," Debbie says. They were both home cats. Neither one of them has ever spent a night on their own away from the house." They had their own little door and came and went as they pleased, but their jaunts never lasted long." But they were always home and tucked in at night.

"I can see where one might had an accident but both of them? Within two days of each other?" Both cats were healthy, neither was restless or acting in a strange or unusual way.

Ted & Debbie have two new cats now. "We don't let these out of the house."

David Froebel of Stone Road lost a cat a little over a month ago and their dog "Wolf" two weeks later. David thinks he knows what's happening.

"I think we've got a fisher-cat in the woods out here," he says.

In Wendell?

"Sure, I saw him. He was out on Wendell Depot Road just below Stone Road. This was just last week."

David says the fisher-cats generally feed on porcupine as their diet-of-choice, but when they strip their area of porcupine - which they do fairly quickly apparently; they have the reputation of voracious eaters they will turn to cats and small dogs to stay fed.

David says that fisher-cats were imported for a specific reason but then grew out of control. Yet there is a law still on the books protecting them. "Even if there's one doing this, we can't shoot him."

There may very well be another way to handle it, but in the meantime it might be just as well for those in that area to follow Debbie's advice; Dont't let them out of the house.

-- michael j. mcphee

JUDITH A. McINTOSH
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1782 MAIN STREET
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS 01331
(617) 249-7986

Soothing Thoughts From The Herb Field

"...Sleep in Heavenly Peace..." The last phrase of my favorite Christmas song speaks to me of a gift we experience second hand whenever we check on sleeping "cherubs"-our children. The chaos and busyness of the day melt away so easily for these active ones and short moments after a story or song they are wrapped in the deep slumber many adults find a rare experience.

The holiday season, especially busy, is a time of much joy and reuniting, of actively making or buying gifts for those we love, yet too often through it all, we forget to take a quiet moment or peaceful afternoon rest, and can find ourselves 'wrapped up' in the hustle and bustle, becoming wound up in trying to do too much! (An experience I have yet to learn how to avoid-I want to do it all!) This can lead to a feeling of tension and jangled nerves which may, in turn, lead to insomnia. Though there are other causes of tension and insomnia the following herbal approach can help one relax by both nourishing and calming the nervous system.

A delicious infusion used to tone and nourish our nervous systems is a blend of red clover and oatstraw. Red clover tops are rich in many vitamins and minerals, especially trace minerals many of us are lacking in our diets due to the ways much of our food is grown (store bought, that is). Our nervous systems rely on these minerals on an on-going, minute-to-minute basis, so it's important to have them available!

Oatstraw (and oats) similarly contain a high mineral content and taste great in any form. This plant (and cereal) is one of the best remedies for nourishing the nervous system especially when under stress.

An infusion is made by placing ½ ounce of each red clover and oatstraw in a quart jar and cover with boiling water. Seal with top. Put aside and let set for four (4) hours. It should be kept refrigerated and warmed before drinking. One or two cups a day is recommended.

St. Joanswort (Hypericum perforatum) can be taken in extract form for the times tension settles in the head and shoulder area. Driving long distances or hours, in and out of traffic can cause such strain. A dropperful of extract in a cup of tea, juice or water will seemingly melt the stress away!

A hot bath always seems to help soothe tired muscles and nerves. An especially delightful addition to this is a few drops of lavender essential oil or pot of pine-needle tea. Both are wonderfully fragrant and soothing.

For an occassional hard-to-get-to-sleep evening, catnip or cammomile are good herbs to reach for. A cup of tea of either herb can help gently lull you to sleep.

Skullcap, Scutellaria lateriflora, is the recommended herb tonic for a longer term insomnia. If you experience headaches, along with inability to sleep, this is the herb for you. Taken as a daily tonic (along with the red clover/oatstraw infusion) over a few months, this herb can slowly and gently rebuild the nervous system and reduce feelings of tension and anxiety.

A special gift to give onesself or others who may have trouble falling asleep is a sleep-pillow filled with herbs and flowers noted for helping one drift gently to sleep. Hops, lavender, cammomile, catnip, roses and lemon balm are some of the fragrant herbs with a quieting action on ourselves-spirit, mind and body! The pillow can be as simple as a muslin bag filled with a combination of these herbs and flowers, or as elaborate as an embroidered pillow of velvet filled with the same. Children especially love the fragrance, and these pillows can help even young cherubs on nights filled with exciting thoughts and hopes to calm down and rest easy!

As I write I am reminded of one of my favorte scents-that of a balsam fir pillow-a gift treasured as a young girl-of which I could never breathe deeply enough! A forest bed in a pillow whose scent carries me to the peaceful woods, lying in the fir needles on a warm summer's day-with the sun peeking through the trees just so...and I could easily fall asleep "in heavenly Peace..." Sweet dreams!

May you all be blessed with a Beautiful holiday season and New Year filled with Peace and Light!

Kate Gilday

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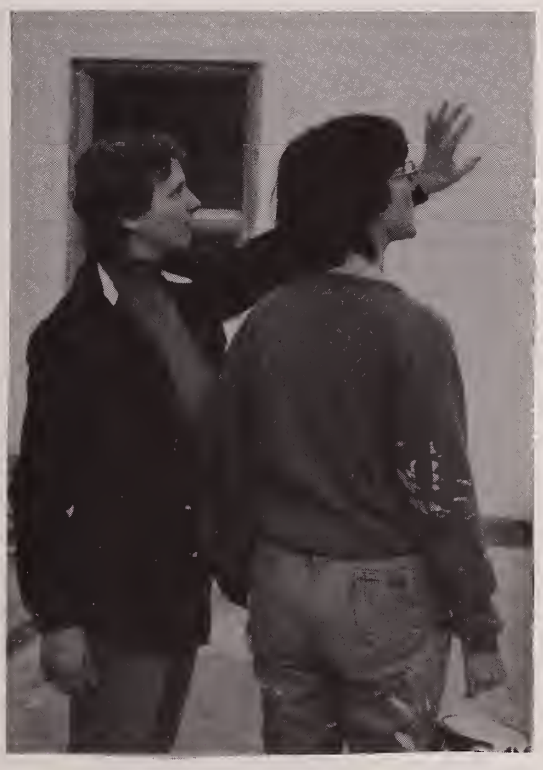
Ethical Monotheism

This remembrance of the first Chanukah has again brought inspiration to me. It was twenty-one centuries ago that Mattathias, father of the Maccabees, first refused to walk away from Judaism regardless of physical dangers from the Syrian King Epiphanes. These actions were examples of the power of the spirit.

I continue to be inspired by those who bear testimony to the truth in Wendell, sometimes at great sacrifice to themselves. I thank all of you for your strength and selflessness.

Shalom, Floyd Borakove



Volunteer organizer, Anne Diemand, discusses the painting job to be done at the Fire Station/Highway Garage with volunteer, Kathy Becker.

Furnace Fund

In November, disaster struck the pre-school program. Both furnaces in the building broke down and were judged to be unrepairable. The kids were sent home, and th question arose: how are we going to pay for the replacement of these furnaces? (We being the Town of Wendell. The Town owns the building and rents it to the pre-school program).

The expense was considerable. Two new furnaces cost $5,000. In addition, associated asbestos removal cost $2,700.

As you all know, our budget is tight with cash flow problems. Fortunately, the school committee stepped forward and generously offered to, in essence, loan the town $7,700 with the expectation they would be paid back within a reasonable amount of time

With the determined help of many town and school officials and town citizens, the work was completed within a week and the children returned to school.

Now an effort is under way to fundraise as much of this $7,700 as possible. The balance, of course, will have to be raised through the town meeting process, and, in turn, through our taxes. A Wendell Furnace Fund Committee formed a few weeks ago, and organized a Holiday Food Basket raffle. The "turkey and trimmings" are all being donated The raffle drawing will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, 12 noon at the Wendell Country Store.

The committee will meet again Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. to plan further events to reach the goal.

For further information, raffle tickets, donations, or suggestions, contact Debbie Puchalski, Anne Diemand, or Stephen Broll.

Stephen Broll

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Don Pugh

Used Motor Oil

On November 10th, I attended a Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) forum on used motor oil: strategies and options. The forum (one of many around the state) held at Holyoke Community College was very well attended by representatives of various departments from numerous towns. There were three primary areas discussed: increasing the network of collection centers, educating the public, and fostering environmentally-sound end-uses for the oil.

Current Massachusetts law (MGL C.21552A) states that any retail outlet which sells auto oil must accept, at no charge, waste oil; not exceeding two gallons per day from any individual with sales receipts or other proof of purchase from the outlet. The outlet must not violate any regulations regarding the handling of this oil.

The implementation of this regulation has been less than satisfactory. Many convenience stores sell oil, but do not have the facilities or trained staff to handle used oil. Comsumers do not always hold on to receipts, and DEQE doesn't have the people power to enforce the regulation. Many outlets simply refuse to take the oil back.

Recent proposals allow for certain outlets to collect oil, while others would pay a fee which would fund certain municipalities to collect the oil. This proposal seems to have wide support.

There are still many details to work out: 1. enforcement-local, state or dual, 2. start up time, 3. do-it-yourself re-sealable oil containers, 4. an inexpensive and convenient way to avoid oil tank contamination, 5. support for re-refining oil market, and 6. negotiations with retailers.

In regard to end uses, re-refined oil is a quality product which can be used in autos at a cost which is less than virgin oil. I'm told utility companies can burn the used oil safely and can utilize as much as we can give them, although public perception concerns have held this back.

I believe Wendell would be a suitable collector of used oil. A 275 gallon tank, specially designed for collecting used oil, could possibly be located in the fire station side. Once a month or bi-monthly, an attendent would accept oil from residents and possibly from very small quantity generators (VSQG). The attendent could check each batch of oil for contamination (a small quantity of water or other fluids could contaminate the entire tank). If the tank is contaminated, the cost for removal would be greatly increased. The tank itself would be supplied by the state. Funds for removal would come from retailers and probably passed on to consumers.

If anyone has any questions or comments, you can contact Cynthia Bellamy, DEQE Division of Hazardous Waste - Boston; or maybe I can answer your questions.

Floyd Borakove

Demolition Landfill

"We're hoping to make this a model project," says Dean Bennett of the demolition landfill that is proposed for the lower yard of Mormon Hollow Auto. However, some community members have concerns about the environmental soundness of the project.

Early in 1988, Mormon Hollow Auto proposed to build a demolition landfill for construction debris classified as non-hazardous. The six-acre site built up by this fill would then form a base for the operation of Joe Diemand's auto salvage business. The Wendell Board of Health held an advertised hearing on the landfill site assignment in April, 1988. There were no objections to the proposal at the hearing or during the two 60-day comment and appeal periods, so the Board Of Health voted unanimously to approve the site for use as a landfill. Some members of the Conservation Commission feel that they were not fully informed about the proposal and that the proposed landfill may threaten groundwater with pollution.

The plan for operation of the demolition landfill is now being reviewed by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. The plan, developed by engineer E. R. Drwila, is complex. The landfill would accept laads of fill from contractors. The fill would be sorted at the site and recycled where possible, (Small pieces of wood would be landfilled, larger pieces would be sent to a New Hampshire fuel operation, concrete and bricks would be crushed for use as a road base, blacktop would be sent to a Greenfield firm which would use it to make new blacktop). Materials not on the list of acceptable fill would be returned to the hauling contractors.

The six-acre site would be divided into 6 one-acre individual cells, each with a double Hypalon plastic liner and a system of drainage pipes to collect leachate. Leachate would be pumped into a tank, removed and tested by a hazardous waste contractor. If the leachate tests "clean", it might be discharged into the ground in the future. One concern of the Conservation Commission is that the site slopes down towards the Millers River, possibly allowing contamination if leachate is released. A list of concerns about the landfill states, "The life expectancy of the liner is not given. What is the expected lifetime? Clearly it will not last forever, so it will someday fail and the leaching which had been temporarily delayed will commence."

The engineer's report states that from 4 to 20 trucks will dump at the site working day, approaching the site through Millers Falls. The landfill would be in operation for 3 to 6 years.

Wendell would benefit financially if the landfill is opened. State Law requires landfill operations to pay their towns $1/ton delivered at the landfill. The Mormon Hollow demolition landfill is proposing to pay Wendell by the cubic yard rather than by the ton, a larger amount of payment. Estimates of revenue to the town range from $27,000 to $108,000 per year.

Rosie Heidcamp of the Board of Health asks that any citizens with concerns about the landfill contact the Board of Health to share their concerns.

Katie Nolan

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U.S. Peace Tax Fund

On May 9, 1985, Wendell Town Meeting voted to send a message to Representative Silvio O. Conte. This message asked Conte to become a co-sponsor of the U.S. Peace Tax Fund. In fact, Amherst, on 5/12/80, Leverett on 4/12/85 and Shutesbury on 5/5/84 requested the very same. It was in 1985 I reminded Conte's office that he had not taken one action reflecting the requests of these towns which he represents. On 1/31/86, Conte requested Representative Rostenkowski to initiate hearings.

For those of you who are not familiar with The Peace Tax Fund I offer this brief description. The Peace Tax Fund offers conscientious objectors to war a way that their tax dollars are spent for non-military purposes only.

In 1940, legislation was passed which recognized that conscientious objectors to war must be allowed alternatives to military service. The inconsistency exists in the Internal Revenue Service code which currently demands that these same conscientious objectors pay for the war effort. The criminal code has always made the connection between financing a crime and the actual crime (conspiracy), why not the Internal Revenue Code?

I ask that both conscientious objectors and those of you who are not, write Representative Conte at his Pittsfield office, and ask that he become a co-sponsor of the Peace Tax Fund bill.

Floyd Borakove (4-6787)

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Town Moderator and Fireperson, Kathy Becker dons a new hat...a painter's!

Penalty Fund For Tax Refusal

Wendell may be unique in the high concentration of war tax resisters. War tax resisters' techniques vary from intentionally keeping their income below the taxable level to openly refusing all Federal tax. Many of us have experienced the collection of penalties and interest. At times these penalties and interest amount to a great burden and makes it more difficult for our witness.

In 1982 the War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund was started by members and friends of the North Manchester Fellowship of Reconciliation. The founders invited sympathetic people to form a broad base that would help sustain and support war tax resisters.

Resisters needing assistance with interest and penalties which have already been collected by IRS submit requests to a committee for review. Documentation must include a copy of the IRS collection form, a copy of their original letter of conscience to IRS or Congress. Approximately three times per year the committee combines requests for reimbursement and sends out an appeal to all names on their mailing list. The fund does not reimburse any taxes collected, just the penalties and interest. For example, if the requests totaled $2000 and the fund has 500 names they ask participants to send $4.00 ea To date the fund has reimbursed over $50,000 to more than 100 war tax resisters in 24 states.

For more information call me (4-6787) or write War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund, P.O. Box 24, N. Manchester, IN 46962.

Floyd Borakove

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Highway / Firestation

Volunteerism is alive and well in Wendell. When the construction project of the new fire station/highway garage got bogged down in financial and administrative problems, the townspeople stepped forward and have brought the future home of the highway crew and fire fighters nearer completion.

In the past two months, volunteers have fixed the leaking roof, hung and taped sheet rock, replaced broken panes of glass, run baseboard, trimmed out windows and doors, put three coats of paint on the interior, painted the hallway floors, caulked and stained the exterior, followed up on subcontractor obligations and, in general, done what it takes to make the Town proud of its newest garage.

Who are these volunteers? Certainly they number a hundred. From townspeople, fire department volunteers, highway department personnel, students from Maple Valley School prisoners from Warwick MCI, and Boy Scouts, who have shown up on work days, to the many others who have baked and provided refreshments, or made phone calls or ordered supplies.

For those who have missed out on this fun you still have a chance to join in. There's some painting, trim work, garage door adjustments, door hanging, lockset installation, landscaping and the like, yet to happen.

For information on future workdays, contactAnne Diemand, Stephen Broll, or Ted Lewis.

Stephen Broll

VOLUNTEER FOR WENDELL

Do you want to improve your self image? Make new friends? Keep your taxes from rising? Help your community without having to sit on a board or committee? Well, the Volunteer Group is just for you!

You will most likely be asked to "serve" only once in a great while and for a particular project (like painting the Highway Garage; see article this issue.) The more names we have to choose from, the less you will be asked.

Please take the time to fill out this little form today and send it to Claudia Pommer, PO Box 175, Wendell, MA 01379. Or if you prefer, call 544-8846. Claudia is our volunteer contact person.

VOLUNTEERS FOR WENDELL

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Skills_____

Time/day preference_____

Recent energy shows at Town Hall

Town Meeting Debates
Cont' from front page

age came up for consideration was a detailed study by Mason Phelps of the tax effects of land protection. The conclusion of the study was that residential development is bad for taxes...so bad that even state purchase of ALL remaining undeveloped land (with payment in lieu of taxes) would be an effective means of keeping down taxes. Next best would be non-taxable private status of protected open land. In other words, every acre protected--even if that means no money coming into the Town's coffers--is a benefit to the tax rate. The study reports what assessors have long claimed about the net expense of residential development.

Jonathan von Ranson

Small Business Aid

Low interest loans and technical assistance have been successfully provided to businesses in the Erving Ten Town program over the past year.

Over ten loans throughout Erving, Wendell, Warwick, Northfield, Gill, Bernardston, Hawley, Charlemont, Ashfield, and Whately have provided businesses with critical start-up and growth capital. Loans have ranged from $4,000 to $40,000, with interest rates between 0% and 4%. Businesses have been assisted with purchase of equipment, acquisition of commercial properties, and rehab/expansion of commercial and industrial space. The focus has been assistance to agricultural and wood product businesses, but all applications are considered.

The program has been awarded a second year of funding, which will provide assistance through 1989 to eligible business applicants.

Interested new or existing businesses located in any of these Ten Towns may apply to the program. Please contact the Franklin County Community Development Corporation at (413) 774-7204 for more information or to request an application.

Funds provided through the Massachusetts Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

Land Transfers

10/20/88 Robert A. Mattson to Wayne A. & Paula M. Mattson east side of Locke Hill Road -34.50 A

10/5/88 Gerald E. Etheridge to Wm. T. O'Connell & Robin L. Marion -- one half interest with Vincent P. & Linda C. Hildebrand - New Salem Road. -22.257 A

10/14/88 Emma M. Cappelluzzo to Alcide H. Houle, Jr. & Marlene east side of West Road -2.7 A

10/18/88 Gary H. Gardner to Clifford L. Lisle and S. E. Wilkinson - Rush Road - 4.101 A. & Bldg.

11/1/88 Donald R. Ellis to Paul Stephen Richard - New Salem Rd. - 7.76 A

11/1/88 Gilbert & Barbara Mitchell to Linda Ann Hickman, Locks Village Rd. - 35.657 A

11/4/88 Charles A. Bado to Peter D. Chamberlain southeast of Locke Hill Road - 4.8A

Fire Log

Oct. False alarm at Swift River
Oct. Burstein alarm on Bullard
Oct. 11 Medical emergency for Charles Bado, Locke Hill Rd.
Oct. Bulldozer fire at Ellis residence, Morse Village Rd.
Nov. 6 Medical emergency at Burnett residence, Locke Village Rd.
Nov. 13 Bauman residence chimney fire, Locke Hill Rd.
Nov. 23 Phyllis Brooks teepee fire, Plain Rd.
Nov. 23 Walsh residence chimney fire, Moosehorn Rd.
Nov. 25 Medical emergency at Bob Perrell residence.

FROM THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

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Season's Greetings

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